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SAPC - 7841
Copy 1 of 7

15 August 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Cover Officer

SUBJECT : Conversation with Mr. Harry Press, NACA, Regarding
Publication of Upper Air Research

1. Mr. Press and I this afternoon discussed informally the matter of the progress on the program of publication of unclassified upper air research data generated through the detachment now in place overseas. Mr. Press advised me that a separate unit to process this data has been set up at Langley Field and that only today he has received the last two of four clearances needed to man this unit properly.

2. As you are doubtless aware, a considerable amount of research has been turned over to NACA within the past month or so. Mr. Press tells me that he now is waiting for a safe or safes in which to store the data and that once these are received he can move forward with the production of suitable research memoranda. When I asked Mr. Press what he thought would be the minimum time required to publish one or more of these memoranda, he said that with a maximum effort such data can be made ready for publication in from 30 to 60 days. In the same breath he stated that in normal circumstances in order to produce a completely documented research paper, six months to a year would ordinarily be required.

3. The point that interests me at the moment is that I believe we can not continue to rely upon upper air research papers from NACA as a counter propaganda weapon in the event of the compromise of the U-2 that might occur within the next two to six months. I do not know exactly to what extent you may have been counting on the presentation of such documented scientific papers to serve as an additional backstop to this entire post-loss cover story, but unless we generate a good deal more steam within NACA to produce at least one if not more of these research memorandums we are missing what might turn out to be a valuable adjunct to our entire denial mechanism.

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Project Director of Administration
PCS/DCI

JACJr/c

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